

## **Washington State Tax Structure Study Committee Members**

**John Beck**, Gonzaga University, School of Business Administration. Professor Beck teaches economics and public finance, and has worked and written extensively in the area of state and local revenue and taxation. He served on the Ohio Tax Policy Advisory Committee to examine their state and local tax structure. Professor Beck holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Michigan State University, and holds master's and bachelor's degrees from the same institution.

**Senator Lisa Brown**, Democrat from the 3rd Legislative District, including the heartland of the downtown Spokane area, extending to the North Side and South Hill. Lisa is an Associate Professor in the Department of Organizational Leadership at Gonzaga University in Spokane. She earned a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Colorado. Lisa served two terms in the Washington State House of Representatives and is in her second term in the Washington State Senate. She is chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, and a member of the Economic Development and Telecommunications Committee.

**Neil Bruce**, University of Washington, Chair of the Economics Department. Professor Bruce is the department's leading public finance scholar. He has written numerous publications on taxation and government policy, tax reform, and corporate taxation, and has written one of the leading national textbooks on public finance. Dr. Bruce earned his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Chicago, an M.A. from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario and a B.A. from the University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia. He is a member of the American Economic Association and the National Tax Association.

**Representative Jack Cairnes**, Republican from the 47<sup>th</sup> District, including Black Diamond, Covington, and parts of Auburn, Kent, and Renton. Jack earned a B.A. degree from Cameron University and a master's degree in counseling from Ball State University. He is a former general contractor, drug and alcohol counselor, personnel and community affairs director, and teacher/facilitator. Jack is a member of the House Finance Committee.

**Dick Conway**, is principal of Dick Conway and Associates, a Seattle economic research and consulting firm. His clients have included some of the major private sector companies in the state – Boeing, Microsoft, Weyerhaeuser, as well as several public sector clients – King County Metro, Sound Transit, and the state of Washington. Dick has served on the Washington State Governor's Council of Economic Advisors since 1985. He is an affiliate associate professor in the Geography Department at the University of Washington and a member of the Department of Economics and Finance Advisory Board

at Seattle University. Dick has a Ph.D. and master's degree in Regional Economics from the University of Pennsylvania, an M.B.A. from the University of Washington, and a B.S. in General Engineering from Stanford University.

**William H. Gates, Sr., (*Tax Structure Study Committee Chair*)** Co-Chair and CEO. -- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. After earning his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Washington, Bill became a partner in the law firm of Shidler McBroom Gates & Lucas in 1964, guiding it through growth and mergers that would eventually establish Preston Gates & Ellis, one of Seattle's leading law firms. Bill has served as trustee, officer, and volunteer for more than two dozen Northwest organizations, including the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce and King County United Way. In 1995, he founded the Technology Alliance, a cooperative regional effort to expand technology-based employment in Washington. He has served as a member of the University of Washington's Board of Regents since 1997.

**Lily Kahng**, Seattle University, School of Law. Professor Kahng provided tax policy and technical advice to the White House during her three-year tenure with the U.S. Treasury Tax Policy Office. She taught tax law at Cornell Law School for five years and New York University School of Law for three years. Prior to that, Professor Kahng worked as a vice president at Salomon Brothers in New York City specializing in tax aspects of mergers and acquisitions. Professor Kahng earned a J.D. from Columbia University School of Law, and an LL.M in Taxation from New York University School of Law.

**Representative Jim McIntire**, Democrat from the 46<sup>th</sup> District in north Seattle. A member of the University of Washington faculty for 13 years, Jim teaches economics and budgeting at the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs. Jim also maintains a private consulting practice. Jim holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Washington, a master's degree in public policy from the University of Michigan, and a B.A. in urban and regional affairs from Macalester College.

**Debra Sanders**, Washington State University, School of Accounting, Information Systems, and Business Law. Professor Sanders has a Ph.D. in Accounting and Tax from Arizona State University, and a M.S. and B.A. from the same institution. She teaches taxation, corporate tax, real estate tax, and tax research courses at the graduate and undergraduate level, and has won awards for teaching, research, and service. She is also a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in Washington State with small business consulting and tax preparation experience.

**Hugh Spitzer, (*Tax Structure Study Committee Vice-Chair*)** is a public finance attorney with Foster Pepper & Shefelman in Seattle. He teaches Washington State Constitutional Law and Local Government Law as an affiliate professor, University of Washington School of Law. He is a frequent speaker at programs for lawyers, judges, and citizens on constitutional law, taxation and public finance, and local government law. Mr. Spitzer has

a J.D. from the University of Washington, an LL.M. from the University of California, Berkley, and a B.A. from Yale University.

**Gary Strannigan**, Executive Director – Citizens for a Sound Economy. Prior to working in the capacity of executive director, Gary represented Washington's 38<sup>th</sup> Legislative District (Everett and Marysville) in the State Senate. He served as Assistant Majority Floor Leader, vice-chair of the Ways & Means, and a member of the Rules Committee. Gary has also served the Boeing Company as a flight control systems engineer. He earned his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.